

Workplace Safety and Health Program for Public Employees



To contact the Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards
Workplace Safety and Health Program:

Call: 508-616-0461

Email: safepublicworkplace@state.ma.us

or visit: www.mass.gov/dols/wshp



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR STANDARDS

Injury Prevention Activities by Department of Labor Standards

The primary goal of the Massachusetts Workplace Safety and Health Program (WSHP) is to prevent injury and illness of public sector workers. WSHP accomplishes this through enforcement investigations and voluntary inspections.

Enforcement

WSHP, under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 149, §6, conducts enforcement investigations to prevent work-related injuries.

A Written Warning with an Order to Correct may be issued if conditions are observed which could cause a work-related injury or illness. A Civil Penalty may be issued if the employer repeatedly allows an unsafe condition to occur, the condition has already caused a serious work-related injury, or if the employer has ignored a previous Written Warning.

Investigations are conducted for the following reasons:

- **Accident Investigation** – a site visit is conducted to evaluate conditions which contributed to an employee injury such as amputation, burn, electric shock, or fracture.
- **High Hazard Activity** – WSHP staff will stop at trench excavations, aerial lift operations, and roofing activities to ensure that public sector workers have adequate cave-in protection, fall protection, and safe work practices to prevent injury.
- **Complaint** – WSHP staff will follow-up on employee complaints about safety and health conditions.
- **Random Investigation** – throughout the year, WSHP will conduct site investigations at random municipal departments, such as public works departments, water departments, wastewater treatment plants, municipal light plants, airports, and schools.



Voluntary Inspection

Municipalities can preventatively elect to invite WSHHP to conduct a voluntary inspection in order to proactively address workplace safety and health concerns. WSHHP voluntary inspections are free to any municipal department in Massachusetts. A Written Warning is not issued for conditions observed during a



voluntary inspection, but the municipality is still required to show proof that the hazard has been corrected within an agreed upon due date. Municipal departments can request a comprehensive (wall-to-wall) safety and health survey, or may limit the survey to specific operations.

A voluntary inspection will help identify and control potential safety and health hazards at your worksites and improve your safety and health programs.

Our safety and health staff members are available to:

- Help you recognize hazards in your workplace.
- Suggest control measures and options for solving a safety or health problem.
- Provide technical support and guidance.
- Conduct testing for noise, asbestos, and lead exposure.
- Guide you in establishing or strengthening a health and safety program.
- Help you establish or strengthen a safety and health program.
- Provide a detailed written report summarizing all findings.

Investing In A Safe And Healthy Workplace Pays Great Dividends!

It is estimated that workplace safety and health prevention saves four times the amount spent on accidents and incidents by:

- Reducing lost time of injured workers
- Reducing expense of replacement wages
- Decreasing worker's compensation rates
- Decreasing insurance premiums
- Avoiding civil penalties and liability
- Reducing repair or replacement of damaged equipment

NOTE: If subsequent enforcement investigation is conducted after voluntary inspection the municipality will be treated as in any other investigation. A written warning will be considered before a civil penalty.

To report an accident requiring an EMS response, hospitalization or fatality of a public employee, call the Department of Labor Standards at 508-616-0461 x9488. A public employee is an employee of a state, county, or municipal entity. Private employers are required to call OSHA. Referrals from police departments, fire, and EMS departments are welcome.

To file a complaint about safety and health conditions for public employees, call the Department of Labor Standards at 508-616-0461 x9488 or e-mail us at safepublicworkplace@state.ma.us.

To request voluntary technical assistance and inspection, call the Department of Labor Standards at 508-616-0461 x9488 or e-mail us at safepublicworkplace@state.ma.us.

Does Your Workplace Need Help Preventing Injuries?

The WSHP website has technical information to assist municipalities prevent work-related injuries. Topics include:

- Aerial Lift Operations
- Confined Space
- Crossing Guard Safety
- Lifting
- Office Ergonomics
- Lockout-Tagout
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Right-to-Know
- School Safety
- Slips, Trips, and Falls
- Trench Safety
- Workplace Violence

MASS*safety*Works!

Workplace Safety is No Accident

Additional assistance and materials can be found at MassSafetyWorks! website:

www.mass.gov/dols/SafetyWorks



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